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Vol. 21, No. 3/September 29, 1998

Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

Vols Romp 42-7!

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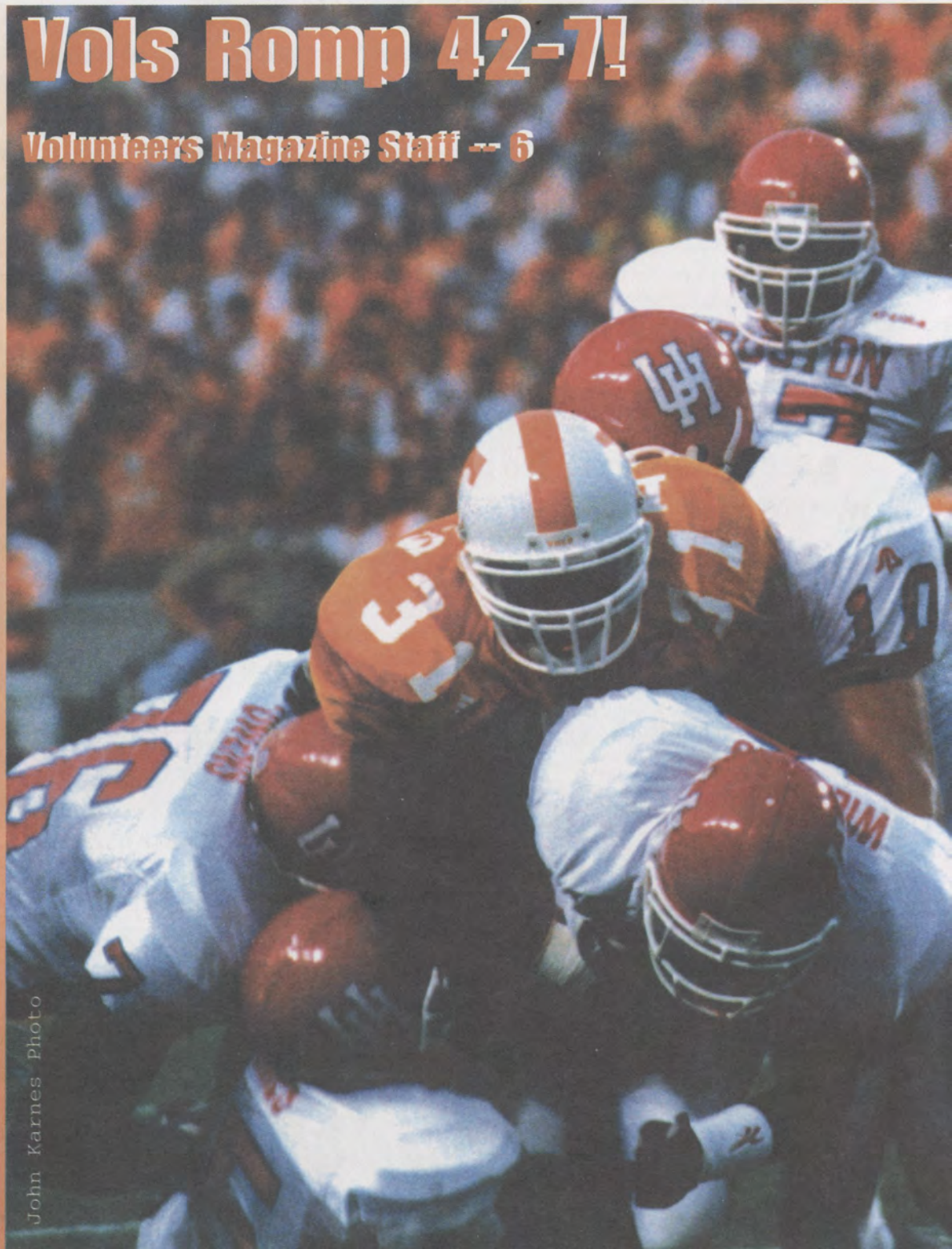

John Karnes Photo

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A Father's Prayer....

From a speech by Archie Manning on September 29, 1988:

Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a son who will know Thee - and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength.

Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain." - *Douglas MacArthur*

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Smokey's Tale
Volunteers
Magazine

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CHAMPS Program

The Renewing Academic Commitments (RAC) program through the Office of Student Life is offered to help former student-athletes who would like to complete their degrees. The program is for athletes who have completed their eligibility and either joined the professional ranks or left school for other reasons prior to graduation.

"With the RAC Program, we are sending a strong message to our student-athletes, and to potential recruits, that we do care about them and will make every effort to assist them in completing their degrees even when their playing days at UT are finished," Dr. Carmen Tegano, Head of the Office of Student Life, said.

"In the RAC Program, we now have a system that has our staff directing former student-athletes to one individual that oversees their return and works with the student to devise a plan for graduation," Tyler Johnson, director of the RAC Program said.

Many former student-athletes who still play professionally will come back only for a semester during their off-season. Some former student-athletes who are not playing professionally have been offered full-time jobs and were later turned down during the interview process when the employer realized the athlete did not have a four-year degree. The RAC Program is designed to assist these athletes in completing one segment of their lives and allow them to start a new one.

In the past two years, many former student-athletes have returned to school to work toward their degrees. Kevin Whitted, a former Vol basketball player, is part of the RAC Program, and he received his degree in August 1998.

"The RAC Program helped me balance my schedule and figure out what classes I could take and how to work them in," Whitted said. "Without this program, I would have had a hard time determining how to go about completing my degree."

The student-athletes participating in the program are trying to balance classes, work schedules, and family time, but they are getting it all accomplished. They know what commitment means, and with the help of the RAC Program, they are doing what it takes to accomplish their goals.

Tyler Johnson
RAC Program Director

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A Look at the Vols...

Leading the Way - Mercedes Hamilton!

The 1998 season-opener for the Vols was hanging in the balance with 2:27 left on the clock. The good guys found themselves trailing Syracuse 33-31 in the hostile environment of the Carrier Dome in upstate New York.

Junior quarterback Tee Martin was making his first start as the Vols signal-caller, and it was his job to move the team downfield for a touchdown or into field goal range. The thousands of Vol faithful at the game were nervous as were the millions in the ESPN audience and listening in on the Vol Radio Network.

Mercedes Hamilton (#75) proved that he can hold his own as he fights off a Florida defender in the recent win over the Gators at Neyland Stadium. Hamilton and the Vols' offensive line were a key factor in the Vols winning over their SEC East rival 20-17. John Karnes photo.

Could the Vols get the job done? Of course they could. Just ask Tennessee senior Mercedes Hamilton. The Vol left guard never had any doubt that Martin could move the ball downfield and set up a game-winning score.

"We had a lot of confidence that we were going to take the ball down and score a touchdown or kick a field goal," Hamilton said.

"We had a young quarterback, but Tee got us down the field. We ran the ball well and it took pressure off of him. That was a big drive for us. That is one of the biggest drives we have had since I have been around here.

"We expected it to be a four-quarter game in the trenches. Coach Fulmer said the game was going to be won with the play of the offensive and defensive line and we got it done. If we were going to win the game, the offensive line had to step up, and it was a good confidence-builder to be able to run the ball when we needed to."

Here's how it happened. The Vols got the ball at the their own 18. Jamal Lewis went for 14 yards.

An incomplete pass followed by Shawn Bryson catching a pass for three yards put the Vols in a third and seven situation. The Vols failed to complete passes on both third and fourth down, but a pass interference penalty on fourth down gave the Vols a first down.

Hamilton and company then cleared the way for Lewis to pick up 11, then Martin hit Peerless Price for 17. Lewis then ripped off 13 more yards. His last carry went for three more to put the ball in position for Jeff Hall's game-winning 27-yard field goal.

The snap was good, the protection was good, the hold was good and

the kick was good. Vols 34, Syracuse 33. What a finish!

It was critical game for the offensive line and for Hamilton. During the summer, Tennessee added Mike Barry as the offensive line coach and several players changed positions on the line.

"The play of the offense line gave me a lot of confidence," Barry said. "That was the first time we all danced together. As things got going and the game progressed, everything started to fall together.

"We communicated well in the game, and I was proud in the way our veterans played. Their experience really showed."

The last drive was pivotal, but Barry was pleased with the overall performance of his line.

"The thing I was proud of in the game was we had no holding penalties, no offsides on the interior line and no minus yardage plays," Barry said. "We were in an adverse situation, so I was really proud of them for whole game we played."

So that is two games with no sacks and at least 150 rushing yards in both games. That is quite a performance considering the postion changes and addition of a new offensivle line coach.

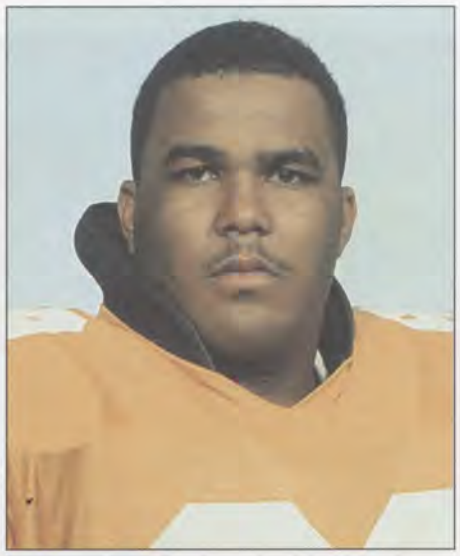
One of those position changes on the offensive line was Hamilton's move from right to left guard. He had started the last 17 games at the right guard slot and was a dependable player at that spot.

"He was a little bit nervous at first switching to right guard, but he jumped in there and said this was for the team," Barry said.

"He never batted an eye. He had some problems with his footwork at first, but now he is just getting better and better. He is really practicing hard to make himself better."

Hamilton believes he has made a successful adjustment.

"I felt moving over was a good challenge," Hamilton said. "Going from a right hand stance to left hand stance was the biggest thing. It is all a part of playing the offensive line



"THAT IS THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP HE PROVIDES FOR US. HE SETS THE EXAMPLE. HE GETS UPSET AND MAD WHEN THINGS DON'T GO WELL. HE AND JARVIS READO BOTH PROVIDE GOOD EXAMPLES AND LEADERSHIP. THEY ARE BOTH PUSHING FOR EVERYBODY TO BE AT THEIR BEST."

—COACH MIKE BARRY

The offensive line also put together a solid performance against Florida. Once again, the Vol offensive line allowed no sacks and provided running room for the Vol backfield.

Lewis picked up 88 yards on the ground, and the offensive line opened up a hole big enough once for Bryson to romp 57 yards for a touchdown. Martin also was able to scramble when necessary, and in overtime picked up a critical 14 yards that set up the eventual game-winning 41-yard field goal by Hall.

"Thumbs up for the offensive line," head coach Phillip Fulmer said. "It wasn't always pretty, but it got the job done. The line was able at least most of the time to neutralize an outstanding defensive front."

though. You have to be versatile. The biggest thing was going to the left because most people are right-handed. So, that was the biggest thing for me.

"But two-a-days got me ready for the change. I had no real problem making the adjustment in the game."

Hamilton not only took over the role of left guard for the Vols, he was also picked as a team captain for this year. Along with Bryson, Hall and Al Wilson, Hamilton will be looked upon to provide leadership for the Vols.

"I was very proud when my teammates picked me as a captain and the coaches had faith in me to do the job," Hamilton said. "I want to live up to what they expect from me.

"I am not very vocal. I am not going to up and whoop and holler or do any kind of that stuff. But I do want to show the younger players how it is done."

Barry believes Hamilton can and is getting the job done a captain.

"He is one of those quiet leaders, one who leads by example," Barry said. "He never complains, always works hard and doesn't loaf.

"That is the kind of leadership he provides for us. He sets the example. He gets upset and mad when things don't go well. He and Jarvis Reado both provide good examples and leadership. They are both pushing for everybody to be at their best."

Being the best requires hard work during the off season. The work of the Vols and the offensive line appeared to payoff in the season-opening win.

"I thought that, going into the fourth quarter, the offensive line was still going strong," Barry said. "The conditioning and hard work over the summer paid dividends."

Not only did the conditioning pay dividends, but the experience of the offensive line is a big plus for the Vols. All of the unit lining up this year for Vols had considerable playing time last season.

"Experience is a great advantage," Hamilton said. "I have a better feeling for the game than I had last year. Playing experience helps out a lot. Things are coming along really well for us as an offensive line. We are working together and learning the calls together."

— Rob Hardin

Vols 42 Houston 7... Vols Bash Cougars with Offensive Show!

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 26, 1998, Game No. 1019 (680-286-53, .693)

After two nailbiters in the first two games, this one went pretty much as you might have expected. Tennessee jumped to a 14-0 lead eight seconds into the second quarter and never looked back en route to a 42-7 victory over Houston tonight before 106,417 at Neyland Stadium, eighth best overall in the history of this venerable stadium.

The Vols did it with four TD passes from Tee Martin, once each to Cedrick Wilson (33 yards), Jamal Lewis (16 yards), Shawn Bryson (63 yards) and Peerless Price (22 yards). Lewis, who gained 135 yards rushing on 13 carries, scored on a 59-yard run in the third quarter.

Lewis is now tied for 13th place on the all-time rushing list with James Berry (1978-81) with 1721 yards rushing. Next up for Lewis is Haskel Stanback (1971-73) with 1730 at No. 12.

Not to be outdone, rookie tight end John Finlayson, the pride of McNairy County, took in a TD pass from fellow frosh Burney Veazey, diving in for the score on a toss covering 21 yards.

The two Travises, Stephens and Henry, each had stellar nights. Stephens had nine carries for 62 yards and returned two kickoffs for 39 yards. Henry had seven carries for 79 yards.

"It feels good to get the opportunity to play," Stephens said. "It helps to get new guys in fresh and ready for the game. I am very proud of the team and my effort. We were hoping to get a good running game and get the offense started right."

Tee Martin set a boatload of career bests tonight, with four TD passes, the longest TD pass of his career (63 yards), a career high completions (14) and a career high 234 passing yards.

The Vols took the first drive of the game in for a score, covering 72 yards in nine plays in 5:27. Cedrick Wilson got the TD all alone behind the Cougar secondary. Lewis got the second Vol score on a swing pass going to the north end in the second quarter, as Tee Martin lofted the ball perfectly to Jamal and the big tailback from Atlanta made a nifty move or two to find the end zone. Bryson took a screen pass in the left flat and motored 63 yards for the score after cutting back against the grain. Eric Parker, who returned five punts for 50 yards and had a long of 22 yards, had a key block in springing Bryson for the score.

"I always think about scoring whenever I get the ball," Bryson said. "When I saw the opening, I just took the ball that way. Eric Parker made a good block down field and I just turned it on."

It was 21-0 at the half and school was apparently out. The Cougars closed to 21-7 on the first drive of the third quarter, but the Vols had the proper response.

Two series later, with the ball at the Vol 41, Lewis found the express lane at right end and outran everybody to the southwest corner for the score that made it 28-7.

The Vols added two scores in the fourth quarter as Price took a Tee Martin toss and made a spiffy move to

Al Wilson and Darwin Walker team up for the hit in the Vols' 42-7 win over Houston on Saturday night (Sept. 26). Photo by John Karnes.

get the ball in at the northwest corner. Finlayson's TD catch closed out the scoring.

The Vols had 334 yards rushing and another 355 passing in a solid offensive showing. Defensively, the good guys held the Cougars to 39 yards rushing and 200 passing. The Vols averaged 9.3 yards per play, while the Cougars averaged 3.9.

Chris Ramseur, pressed into service when Al Wilson banged up a shoulder, had seven hits, three for losses (-5 total). Jud Granzow had six hits Raynoch Thompson and Corey Terry had five each and Gerald Griffin, Deon Grant, Fred White and Dwyane Goodrich had four each. Thompson, Darwin Walker and Roger Alexander each had sacks.

"We wanted to play with emotion," Ramseur said. "I'm happy with the way the defense played. I knew I had to come in and step up, but I was able to get the job done. The coaches told me I needed to go in and be a leader like Al Wilson."

GAME NOTES: Al Wilson was named SEC Defensive Player of the Week for his performance against Florida... The Vols are now 41-2-2 when rushing for over 200 yards since 1990 and have won 13 straight regular season games... On the season, the Vols are averaging 250.7 rushing yards per game and 6.3 yards per carry... Price's 76 yards receiving moves hin into ninth place in career yards on the Vol all-time list, surpassing Alvin Harper. Price has 1579, Harper 1547. With his seven catches, Price also became the 11th Vols to pass the century mark in career catches (102, tied for ninth with Harper)...With 3 yards receiving, Jeremaine Copeland became the 11th Vol to record 1000 yards receiving in a career, with 1026 yards on 80 receptions... With the win, the Vols are now 35-6-1 in non-conference play since 1990 and have won 17 straight non-league games at home. It is the first 3-0 start since 1992... Wideout David Martin saw his first action of the season... Gus Manning and his late wife, Margaret, were honored on campus this week with a $100,000 endowment in their honor in the Exercise Science Unit in the College of Education. The gift was given in their names by former Vol Ed Cifers and his wife, Catherine.

--Volunteers Magazine Staff

Jamal Lewis out in the open field against Houston. John Karnes photo.

Tennessee Statistics vs. Houston

Team Statistics	TENN	HOU
First Down	25	16
Rushing	14	4
Passing	9	9
Penalty	2	3
Rushing Attempts	43	31
Yards Gained	360	75
Yards Lost	26	36
Net Yards Rushing	334	39
Net Yards Passing	255	200
Passes Attempted	20	31
Passes Completed	15	21
Had Intercepted	1	0
Total Offensive Plays	63	62
Total Net Yards	589	239
Fumbles-Lost	4/1	1/1
Int. Return/Yards	0/0	1/0
Penalties/Yards	11/95	8/62
3rd Down Conversions	3/7	4/15
4th Down Conversions	1/2	0/1
Punts/Average	2/43.0	8/38.8
Punt Returns/Yards	5/50	2/9
Kickoff Returns/Yards	2/39	2/37
Sacks By/Yards	3/17	1/10
Time of Possession	32:33	27:27

SCORE BY QUARTER

Houston	**0**	**0**	**7**	**0**	**— 7**
TENNESSEE	**7**	**14**	**7**	**14**	**— 42**

1T - C. Wilson, pass from T. Martin 33. Hall kick.
Drive: 72 yards, 9 plays, 5:27 possession, 9:33 on clock.
2T - Lewis, pass from T. Martin 16. Hall kick.
Drive: 83 yards, 12 plays, 4:50 possession, 14:52 on clock.
2T - Bryson, pass from T. Martin 63. Hall kick.
Drive: 79 yards, 3 plays, 1:29 possession, 10:09 on clock.
3H - Regimbald, pass from McKinley 19. Waddell kick.
Drive: 80 yards, 10 plays, 3:55 possession, 11:05 on clock.
3T - Lewis, run 59. Hall kick.
Drive: 59 yards, 1 play, :12 possession, 7:36 on clock.
4T - Price, pass from T. Martin 22. Hall kick.
Drive: 57 yards, 5 plays, 2:25 possession, 10:56 on clock.
4T - Finlayson, pass from Veazey 21. Hall kick.
Drive: 38 yards, 5 plays, 2:26 possession, 6:35 on clock.

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
Lewis	13	135	0	135	1	59
Stephens	9	62	0	62	0	30
Henry	7	73	4	69	0	24
T. Martin	6	43	10	33	0	28
Crosby	3	28	0	28	0	20
Veazey	3	0	12	-12	0	0
Bryson	1	19	0	19	0	19
Barthol.	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	**43**	**360**	**26**	**334**	**1**	**59**
UH	*31*	*75*	*36*	*39*	*0*	*13*

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yards	TD	Long
T. Martin	19	14	1	234	4	63
Veazey	1	1	0	21	1	21
UH	*31*	*21*	*0*	*200*	*1*	*26*

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Price	7	76	1	22
Bryson	2	74	1	63
C. Wilson	2	35	1	33
Copeland	2	33	0	21
Finlayson	1	21	1	21
Lewis	1	16	1	16
Totals	**15**	**255**	**5**	**63**
UH	*21*	*200*	*1*	*26*

PUNTING

	No.	Yards.	Avg.	LP
Leaverton	2	86	43	45
UH	*8*	*310*	*38.8*	*51*

PUNT RETURNS

	Ret	Yds	Avg.	TD	Long
Parker	5	50	10	0	22
UH	*2*	*9*	*4.5*	*0*	*6*

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Ret	Yds	Avg.	TD	Long
Stephens	2	39	19.5	0	25
UH	*2*	*37*	*18.5*	*0*	*23*

INTERCEPTION RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Long
UH	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*

FIELD GOALS

	0-29	30-39	40-49	50-60	60+	LK
Hall			0/1			
UH		*0/1*				

Fulmer File...

HOUSTON GAME 1998!

Tee Martin grew significantly in the victory over Houston Saturday night, throwing the ball crisply and efficiently, the way we knew he could.

There was never any doubt about Tee's passing ability, not in my eyes or in the eyes of the rest of the coaches. We've seen him do it during the week, practice after practice. He just needed to find his groove, which is something he accomplished against Houston and just in the nick of time, what with Auburn on the horizon Saturday.

The first two games, Tee wasn't himself. Against Syracuse and Florida, I think he was a little hesitant with his passes. Knowing Tee, it's my belief he just wanted to make sure he didn't do something to hurt the team. He is very unselfish and is tough on himself.

Of course, even with subpar passing, he made some gigantic plays that were essential in our wins over Syracuse and Florida. But against Houston, we saw the complete Tee Martin, hitting his passes for four touchdowns and helping us along with some nifty running.

After those two season-opening barnburners, I didn't want to count on Lady Luck coming to our side against a good Houston team. Thanks to a continuing stingy defense and some great new wrinkles in our offense, we didn't have to call on placekicker Jeff Hall for a last minute field goal to win the game.

The 42-7 victory was decisive enough and nailed down early enough that we could make generous use of our bench in the fourth quarter. In the last few minutes, Burney Veazey fired a pass to tight end John Finlayson, who lumbered across the goal line on a 21-yard touchdown play.

Give Houston credit. They never gave up and fought us hard for four quarters. We knew they would be ready to play, hoping for the upset that would offset their narrow losses against California, Minnesota and UCLA. I knew it was important to set the tempo early. We accomplished that with a good scoring drive on our first possession, followed by some solid play on the part of our defense.

As pleased as I was with the victory, there is no question we have a lot of work to do on both sides of the ball. We grew as a passing team, but took a step backwards as far as our penalties and turnovers were concerned. The timing in our center snaps was off, producing a number of penalties.

These are the kind of things we can't afford when we return to Southeastern Conference play against Auburn Saturday at Jordan-Hare Stadium.

Shawn Bryson was incredible on his touchdown pass reception. After a key block by Mercedes Hamilton, he made most of the yardage on his own. It is simply unbelievable that we have a fullback who can do as many things as Shawn. He is the perfect fullback for our system, bringing us a unique combination of runner, blocker, pass-catcher, route-runner and protector of our quarterbacks.

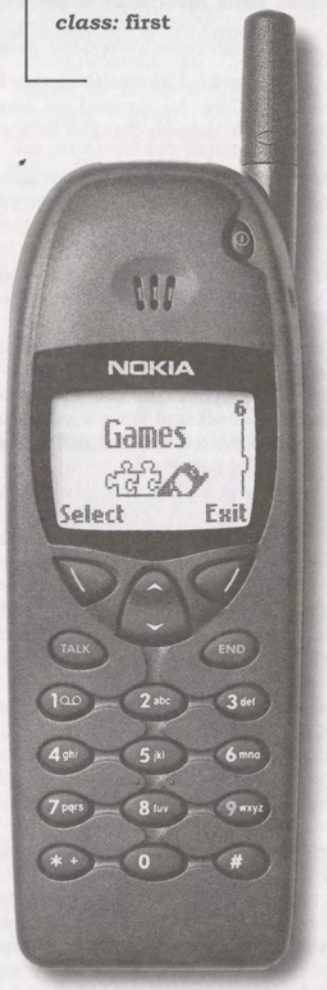
The games are coming fast and furious now, no open dates or preseason timetable to give us breathing room. This week, we need to make every second count in getting ready for a strong Auburn team that will be doubly tough on its home turf.

-- Phillip Fulmer

"THE FIRST TWO GAMES, TEE WASN'T HIMSELF. AGAINST SYRACUSE AND FLORIDA, I THINK HE WAS A LITTLE HESITANT WITH HIS PASSES. KNOWING TEE, IT'S MY BELIEF HE JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T DO SOMETHING TO HURT THE TEAM. HE IS VERY UNSELFISH AND IS TOUGH ON HIMSELF. OF COURSE, EVEN WITH SUBPAR PASSING, HE MADE SOME GIGANTIC PLAYS THAT WERE ESSENTIAL IN OUR WIN OVER SYRACUSE AND FLORIDA. BUT AGAINST HOUSTON, WE SAW THE COMPLETE TEE MARTIN, HITTING HIS PASSES FOR FOUR TOUCHDOWNS AND HELPING US ALONG WITH SOME NIFTY RUNNING."

-- Phillip Fulmer

STATS
height: **5 inches**
weight: **4.8 ounces**
major: **communications**
class: **first**



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Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols... Hank Lauricella!

Francis H. (Hank) Lauricella caused quite a stir when he arrived on the University of Tennessee campus in the fall of 1948.

It wasn't because he had been an All-American high school player. There were plenty of those in what had been called the best freshmen class in Vol football history. It was because of his transportation. The kid from New Orleans was the only recruit who had his own car.

"The story got around that I had been given the car to sign with Tennessee," Lauricella recalled later. "The truth was that my folks were fairly well off and they had given me a used car to drive to Knoxville. I got a big kick out of all the rumors."

UT fans got a big kick out of Lauricella in the years that followed. The last of the great single wing tailbacks to play under General Bob Neyland, he was to lead the Vols back to the top of college football ladder in the national championship season of 1951 and come as close as any Tennessee player has ever come to winning the Heisman Trophy.

He could have been cut from the mold of the ideal Neyland-type single wing tailback. He was on the smallish side, 5-11 and 175, a bit faster than some of the tailbacks who had preceded him, and at his best in clutch situations.

Lauricella was a genuine triple threat, the likes of which we never see in today's game. As a runner he followed his blockers religiously, but if an open field situation arose he could shimmy and shake with the best of them. He was a better passer than most, cool and relaxed in the pocket, and he could punt for either distance or accuracy. But his talents went far beyond those obvious skills.

As a sophomore in 1949, when Neyland first began to experiment with separate offensive and defensive units, he spent a lot of time playing safety as well as sharing tailback duties with senior Hal Littleford. He played in an era when the quarterback (in Tennessee's case, the tailback) still called all the offensive plays, and the Vols to this day have never had a better field general.

Sophomore Lauricella had a big hand in a stormy 26-20 season-ending win over Vanderbilt that signaled the end of Neyland's only major slump. First he lofted a high punt that the great Vandy return specialist, Lee Nalley, fumbled (with the help of an early hit by Vol guard Chaddy Baker, the Commodores said). After the Vols had recovered, Hank threw a dart into the end one to end Charlie Cummings for what proved to be the winning score. That gave UT a 7-2-1 season and provided momentum that was to carry over into the next two glorious seasons.

The 1950 Vols suffered a 7-0 upset loss at Mississippi State in the second game of the season but roared back to win the remaining nine, including the famous 7-0 win over favored Kentucky at Knoxville in November. Here again a Lauricella pass, a 27-yarder to wingback Bert Rechichar, provided the winning margin. Their 10-1 record won the Vols a trip to Dallas for the Cotton Bowl, where they once again found themselves underdogs against a big, powerful Texas team.

Few Tennessee players have ever had better days than Lauricella had against the Longhorns. He rushed for 131 yards, including a 75-yard broken field excursion to the Texas five-yard line that set up the Vols' first touchdown in their 20-14 victory. The junior tailback had established himself as one of the game's great players.

This was an era of many brilliant Tennessee stars. Defensive lineman Doug Atkins, Ted Daffer and Bill (Pug) Pearman were All-Americans, along with Lauricella and offensive guard John Michels. Rechichar and fullback Andy Kozar were All-SEC picks who probably deserved more, and the man who shared tailback duties with Lauricella, Herky Payne, would have been a star on any other team. To this day, Hank insists that he and Herky were alternate tailbacks, not first and second string.

Lauricella had an almost perfect season in `51, averaging 7.9 yards per carry and leading the Vols to a 10-0-0 record and the national championship. But he finished second to Princeton's Dick Kazmaier in the Heisman balloting, a fate that later Vols Johnny Majors, Heath Shuler and Peyton Manning were to share with him.

The great tailback's career ended in the worst of ways. Playing before his hometown friends in the Sugar Bowl game on Jan. 1, 1952, he threw two interceptions and had a costly fumble as the Vols were upset by Maryland 28-13.

Hank Lauricella still lives in New Orleans. A successful businessman, he recently retired from the Louisiana state senate after some three decades of service in that body. He played a key role in the building of the Louisiana Superdome. He was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1981.

Former Vol

Roland James (1976-79)

Roland James came to Knoxville and the Vols from Jamestown, Ohio, and lettered all four years he was a Vol.

He was a stalwart in the secondary, intercepting 10 passes in his career for 189 yards and one score. That is the 10th best figure in Vol history. He had seven interceptions in 1978 for 126 yards and a score, sixth best season mark overall. He had a 90-yard interception return for a score against Mississippi in 1978.

James led the 1979 team in punt returns, with 19 for 243 yards. He had an 89-yard punt return for a score against Vanderbilt in 1979.

He played professionally for the New England Patriots from 1970-80. Letterman's records indicate that he is now living in his native Jamestown.

Roland James was a steadying force in the secondary for the Vols from 1976-79. He also had a stellar pro career in New England and played in the 1986 Super Bowl.

Tennessee Tournament of Champions

The tournament will be held at Knoxville's Fox Den Country Club, par 72, 7,142 yards, for the first time after a 10-year stint at Holston Hills Country Club.While the location may be different, the quality of the field remains excellent.

Host Tennessee, North Florida, Auburn, Southern California, LSU, Florida State, N.C. State, Arkansas, Virginia, ETSU, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Florida Southern and Furman make up the 14-team field.

Coca-Cola and WIVK are sponsors for the 54-hole tournament. A practice round will be held on Sunday, Oct. 4 for all teams. Teams will play 36 holes on Monday and the final 18 holes on Tuesday.

First-year head coach Jim Kelson also makes his debut at the helm of the Volunteer golf program at the Tennessee Tournament of Champions.

1998 Tip-Off Banquet

The fifth annual Tennessee Tipoff Banquet at Thompson-Boling Arena is scheduled for Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. Former Auburn and VCU head coach Sonny Smith, a native Tennessean, will be the featured speaker.

UT head coaches Jerry Green and Pat Summitt will introduce their respective teams and give fans an outlook on the upcoming seasons.

This year's banquet is sponsored by Krystal and will again be catered by Calhoun's. Tickets are $25 for $200 per table. Interested parties should call (423) 974-0001.

The 11th annual Tennessee Tournament of Champions will be held Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 5-6.

Basketball Tickets Now on Sale

The University of Tennessee Ticket Office is now taking orders for the upcoming 1998-99 basketball season. Fans may choose from two ticket packages. The Full Season Pack includes all 15 home games and the Vols' two exhibition games. The Big Game Pack has four SEC games—South Carolina, Alabama, Vanderbilt and Kentucky (John Ward's last broadcast on the UT campus).

Vol fans may order by phone (423) 656-1200 with a credit card (MasterCard, VISA, Discover), or by completing the the application form, printing it out and mailing it to the UTAD Ticket Office.

Midnight Madness Returns

Tennessee's second annual "Midnight Madness" presented by GTE Wireless, featuring the Vols and Lady Vols 1998-99 basketball teams will be held at Thompson-Boling Arena Friday, Oct. 16.

The doors to Thompson-Boling Arena will open at 10 p.m. and the promotional events will begin at 10:30 p.m., leading up to the official start of the upcoming season at midnight.

Promotional events scheduled include the WNOX $9,999 Cash Crawl, a Tuition Shot sponsored by The Eagle 100.3 and a fan favorite from last year, Mascot Basketball Game.

Beginning at midnight, both men's and women's teams will be introduced and will begin practice. Admission is free to "Midnight Madness."

In Tennis Action

Peter Handoyo, a true freshman from Surabaya, Indonesia, won his first three matches as a Vol in the prequalifying rounds of the T. Rowe Price National Clay Court Championships in Baltimore, Md. Handoyo advances to the qualifying round on Tuesday thanks to his three straight-set wins. Handoyo will join teammate Mark Parsons in qualifying play.

In the first round, No. 97 Handoyo defeated Asaf Drori of North Carolina 6-1, 6-3. In the second round, Handoyo beat Rio Kuharski of Southern Miss 7-5, 6-2. Handoyo continued his winning ways in the third round by besting Leif Meineke of Boise State 6- 0, 6-4.

Vols Paul Podbury and Andy Crews continued play Saturday and Sunday at the Continental Airlines Cup Tennis Tournament in Houston, Texas.

Podbury, a sophomore from Melbourne, Australia, finished "A" flight singles play on the weekend with a 1-1 record. After winning on Friday, Podbury lost his second round match to No. 68 Efe Ustundag of Rice 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday. On Sunday, Podbury's injury forced the cancellation of his match with Robert Collins of Rice.

Crews, a redshirt freshman from Brentwood, finished the weekend with a 1-2 record in "C" flight singles. Following a loss on Friday, Crews defeated Cory Hubbard of Texas A&M 6-1, 7-5 on Saturday. On Sunday, Crews lost to Andrew Vu of Texas A&M 6- 4, 6-2. In doubles play, Crews and Podbury went 0-1 in the tournament in "A" flight doubles. After a first round loss on Friday, Crews and Podbury defaulted because of an injury to Andy Warford and Andrew Laflin of Notre Dame. On Sunday, injury forced Crews and Podbury to also default their match with Casey Smith and Javier Tarborga of Notre Dame.

Diamond Vols Begin Preseason

Tennessee's baseball squad held its first day of fall practice on Monday, Sept. 21, at Lindsey Nelson Stadium as the media looked on.

A total of 16 newcomers dot the Vols 28-man roster this year. Of those 16, seven are true freshmen and nine are junior college transfers. The Vols return 12 players from the 1998 squad, including four seniors (Donnie Ross, Josh Morris, Kurt Scott and Richie Jenkins).

Head Coach Rod Delmonico is closing in on milestone win No. 400. Delmonico needs only 24 victories to reach the mark and 33 more wins to become UT's all-time winningest coach, surpassing the legendary Vol coach Bill Wright who compiled a 408-308-2 record in 19 years from 1963-1981.

Delmonico's nine-year career record stands at 376-179 (.677). With win No. 400, he will become the 13th coach in SEC history to win 400 games.

Golf Team Reunion

On Nov 13, the University of Tennessee golf team will hold a reunion of past Vol golf team players at Millstone Golf Club in Morristown. Former golf team members interested in this tournament should contact the University of Tennessee Athletic Department for more information at (423) 974-1433.

—Compiled by Donnell Field

This Week In Big Orange Country

Harriers Claim Knoxville Meet

With three Vol runners finishing in the top five, Tennessee defeated six schools to claim first place in the UT Invitational at Lambert Acres Golf Club in Maryville.

Tennessee's Anthony Famiglietti took second in 25:27.12, Doug Ellington placed third (25:41.16) and Jon Jamison finished in fifth (25:53.07).

In all, six UT runners were among the first 21 competitors to cross the line as Tennessee outscored second place Ohio State 42-49. Wake Forest took third, SEC opponent Florida finished in fourth, followed by Indiana, UNC-Asheville and LSU.

Coming on the heels of last week's win at Western Carolina, head coach George Watts offered the following thoughts on his squad: "These guys are running well right now. They are working together and showing a lot of tenacity. It is an overachieving group with a great deal of room for improvement. I was impressed today with how hard Doug (Ellington) and Anthony (Famiglietti) finished the last two miles of this race. As always, it is nice to win, but we have to do this when it counts."

Famiglietti and Ellington were among the leaders from start to finish, as they pushed each other to keep up their pace. "I have to give credit to Doug," Famiglietti said. "He pushed me through. I couldn't have done it without him today."

Team captain Doug Ellington is pleased with the way the squad has performed to date. "We have a special style developing. It is certainly a lot different than last year. It was great to see Anthony up there today and we are happy to be winning, but we know we can improve," Ellington noted.

Tennessee runs next Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Birmingham Invitational before traveling to Lawrence, Kan., for the Pre-National Cross Country Invitational on Oct. 10. The Volunteers will host the SEC Championships on Oct. 31 at Lambert Acres and the NCAA Championships will be in Lawrence on Nov. 23.

—Matt Dortch

Anthony Famiglietti (shown) and Doug Ellington lead Vols to win.

Soccer Squad Notches Two Victories

Allison Campbell scored her second game winning goal in as many games as Tennessee shut out Xavier 4-0 at the UT Soccer Complex. Campbell's goal came just 1:43 into the game off an assist from Laura Lauter. Tara Minnax scored UT's second goal at 32:41 from Kendyl Michner to put Tennessee up 2-0. Michner then scored one of her own off a direct kick from Whitney Rayburn. Kelly Berrall's curing corner kick provided the Big Orange's final goal on the day. Freshman Ellen Dean picked up 7 saves, her first shutout and her third win in as many starts.

It was a record-setting day for Lady Vol freshman Campbell, as she tallied five goals to lead Tennessee to an 8-1 shellacking of host North Carolina-Asheville. The rookie from Livonia, Mich., found the back of the net five times in six shots to establish new standards for goals and points in a single game. With its second straight victory, head coach Charlie MacCabe's squad evened its mark at 3-3 and dealt Asheville its first setback after four consecutive wins.

Allison Campbell set a school record with five goals in a game this past week.

Surprisingly, the Bulldogs opened the scoring 12:50 into the match when Joanna Stocking scored off a direct kick from Mackenzie Miller and Kara Strehle. After that, the game turned into a personal showcase for Campbell.

She tied the game at one at 13:34 off a pass from sophomore Laura Lauter, moved UT ahead six minutes later with an unassisted effort, and completed the hat trick at the 23:07 mark with a 25-yard blast which found the low right corner of the net.

Sophomore Berrall extended the Lady Vols' advantage to 4-1 three minutes later with her first goal of the campaign. Campbell then popped in goal number four at 28:15 when she converted a nice feed from junior Shayna Teutsch. Michner notched her first score of the season on a penalty kick with close to five minutes remaining until the half to provide Tennessee with a 6-1 lead at the intermission.

Campbell kept her offense flowing in the second stanza when her point-blank shot beat Asheville keeper Christine Geske on the short side off a pass from classmate Minnax. Later, Rayburn completed the rout with her initial goal of 1998 off the first-ever assist from freshman Jen Laughridge.

Honorary Memberships

The T-Club would like for everyone to take a moment and look over the guidelines for submitting a name for honorary membership into the Lettermen's Club. These guidelines are set forth by the by-laws of the T-Club. If you have any questions concerning these by-laws, please contact the Lettermen's Office at (423) 974-9054.

Under Article IV, Section 4 of the Tennessee Lettermen's T-Club by-laws, an Honorary Membership my be bestowed on an individual for outstanding service or achievement reflecting favorably on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and its athletic programs. Said Honorary Members shall not pay dues and shall not be allowed to vote or hold office. Honorary Membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors and is reserved for the highest accomplishments and service to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Athletic Department.

Next Board Meeting

The next T-Club meeting will be Oct. 8, at the Gibbs Hall Dining at Noon. Board members need to present at next meeting. Please contact Pat Shires or Judy Constantine if you can not attend.

Lettermen's Room Open

Three hours prior to each home game, lettermen will find the T-Club Room open for light snack foods and soft drinks, ongoing ball games on large televisions, and great conversation from some of your old friends.

The Lettermen's Room is located on the second floor of Thompson-Boling Arena, with access from Stadium Drive for T-Club members and their families. Come by and see us.

Getting Duplicate Copies

If you are getting duplicate copies of Smokey's Tale please let us know. Call us at (423) 974-1266.

Lettermen's Weekend

The 1998 Lettermen's Weekend has ben set for Nov. 21, as the Vols will host the Kentucky Wildcats. There is a slight possibility that there may some individual tickets available for that game. For more information on that weekend please contact Judy Constantine at (423) 974-9054.

Next Issue

Plans for the Lettermen's Weekend of Nov. 21, along with what member from the University of Tennessee will honored at the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame in December.

We are also looking for former lettermen who have moved and/or who have not been involved in the Lettermen's Club.

—Compiled by Donnell Field

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Please complete this form and return it to the University of Tennessee Athletic Marketing, PO Box 15016, Knoxville, TN 37901-5016. The Junior Vols is reserved for children 13 and under. Annual membership fee of $25.00 is required with application. Mastercard, Visa and Discover are accepted. Checks should be made payable to Junior Vols Kids Club. Call (423) 974-1734 for more details.

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VASF & MARKETING NEWS

UTNAA Auburn and Georgia Football Away Game Receptions

The University of Tennessee National Alumni Association is sponsoring away football game receptions when the Volunteers tangle with the Auburn Tigers and Georgia Bulldogs. These receptions will begin three hours prior to kickoff. For more information, contact the office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving at (423) 974-3011.

For the Oct. 3 game against Auburn, the reception will be held at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center located on South College Street.

For the Oct. 10 game against Georgia, the reception will be held at the Holiday Inn located on East Broad Street.

Make your plans now to join fellow Volunteer faithful and other alumni at these away game locations for a good time.

VASF To Hold Mini Fund Drive This Fall

The Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund is looking to grow again. This fall's drive to recruit new members into the VASF seeks to build membership within the smaller donor categories. If you would like more information about the VASF, its fund drives or would like to learn more about ways to help support Tennessee's student-athletes, contact the VASF office at (423) 974-1218.

Basketball Tickets and Parking Passes

The 1998-99 Men's Basketball full season tickets and parking passes will be mailed out in the middle of October. Watch this space in future issues for exact dates. Do not forget to attend Midnight Madness.

Midnight Madness Approaches

On Oct. 16, 1998, beginning at 10 p.m., the ritual will once again take place on the Tennessee campus in the Thompson-Boling Arena. This ritual will start with hordes of crazed Tennessee fans filling the seats of the Arena and then competing with one another in a series of contests for some exciting prizes as the moment approaches.

At the stroke of 12, the main event will begin as the 1998-99 versions of the Big Orange basketball teams will take their rightful place on the new court. After some warm-up practices and introductions, there will be several intra-squad scrimmages as these two teams begin practice for the upcoming year.

Admission and parking are free and the event begins at 10 p.m. Make your plans now to attend.

1998 Coca-Cola Tournament of Champions

The University of Tennessee will once again host the annual eleventh annual 1998 Coca-Cola Tournament of Champions on Oct. 4-6, 1998, at the Fox Den Country Club in Farragut, Tenn. More than 75 participants representing at least 14 colleges and universities will venture to west Knoxville for some outstanding rounds of collegiate golf. Admission is free. Come support the Volunteer linksters and new Head Coach Jim Kelson as they tangle with some of the best golfers at the collegiate level. For more information, contact the Sports Information office at (423) 974-1212.

1998 Krystal Tip-Off Banquet

The 1998-99 basketball teams' seasons will get underway with the Krystal Tip-Off banquet on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. on the floor of the Thompson-Boling Arena. Former VCU/Auburn/ETSU head basketball coach Sonny Smith will be this year's keynote speaker. The Master of Ceremonies will be John Ward and the meal will be catered by Calhoun's' of Knoxville. Tickets are $25 per person or $200 for a table seating seven, plus a guest Tennessee men's or women's player or coach. Corporate tables are also available. Contact the Lady Vols Basketball office at (423) 974-0001 for more information.

Basketball Season Tickets and Big Game Packages are Available

Several 1998-99 full season tickets remain for head coach Jerry Green's second year version of the Volunteer hoopsters. Tickets are only $196 each for 17 home games (15 regular season plus two pre-season exhibition games). If you can not make every game of the action, the Big Game Package is a reasonable alternative.

The 1998-99 Big Game Package contains four of Tennessee's toughest home game opponents for only $48. All of these games are on Saturdays and there is no guessing where your seats will be each game as these tickets are for the same seats all four games. Watch as the Vols take on the South Carolina Gamecocks (Jan. 9), the Alabama Crimson Tide (Jan. 30), the Vanderbilt Commodores (Feb. 13) and the defending National Champion Kentucky Wildcats (Feb. 23). THIS TENNESSEE-KENTUCKY GAME WILL BE JOHN WARD'S FINAL HOME BROADCAST OF ANY VOLUNTEER GAME.

Call the Ticket office at (423) 656-1200 to order. You may charge by phone with a Visa, MasterCard or Discover card if you like.

Rowing Adds Assistants

University of Tennessee head women's rowing coach Lisa Glenn announced the hiring of two assistant coaches to round out her rowing staff. Jason Coffman will serve as Assistant Coach for Novice Development and Molly Manternach has been designated Assistant Coach for Athletes and Administration. The announcement comes two weeks after Glenn started in Knoxville as head rowing coach following the resignation of Susannah Iacovino.

Academic Athlete

This week's Academic Athlete of the Week for the week of Sept. 12-19 is Jenny Steele. Academic Athlete of the Week honors are voted on by the Lady Vol Media Relations Staff.

Steele is the softball team's leadoff hitter for Jim Beitia's club while also maintaining a leadership role in the classroom as well. Steele earned a 3.70 GPA in Business/Marketing in the Spring semester. Last year Steele batted at a .281 clip while knocking out 50 hits and scoring 32 runs.

Volleyball Exhibition

The Tennessee volleyball team dropped a 3-0 (3-15, 9-15, 7-15) decision to the Moscow Club Sports Association Russian team in an exhibition match on October 17 at Stokely Athletics Center.

Redshirt freshman Ariana Wilson (Cincinnati, Ohio/Princeton) led the Lady Vols' attack with 10 kills. Other leaders for Tennessee included: freshmen Erica Lear (Columbus, Ind./Columbus East) who registered 28 assists, Lauren Proctor (Mansfield, Ohio/Lexington) with six digs and Stephanie Knight (Gilbert, Ariz./Gilbert) who tallied four blocks, including a pair of solo blocks.

Off to their best start (5-2) since 1991, the University of Tennessee volleyball team hosted UNC Asheville at Stokely, winning 3-1.

Cross Country Claims Win

Tennessee's runners used the home field advantage to its fullest as the Big Orange took home 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th place en route to a 1st place team finish at the Tennessee Invitational on the Lambert Acres Golf Course in Maryville, TN. Senior Maureen Ferris used a late burst of energy in the last 100 yards to pass LSU's Martina Barkman for first place with a time of 17:59.55. Juniors Angie Pothier and Kristen Ritter followed closely behind to finish 3rd and 4th respectively. Sharon Dickie who led UT at the Western Carolina Invitational, finished 5th while Mindy Watkins followed her up in 6th to complete the Big Orange finish.

Former Lady Vol Joins Morgan State

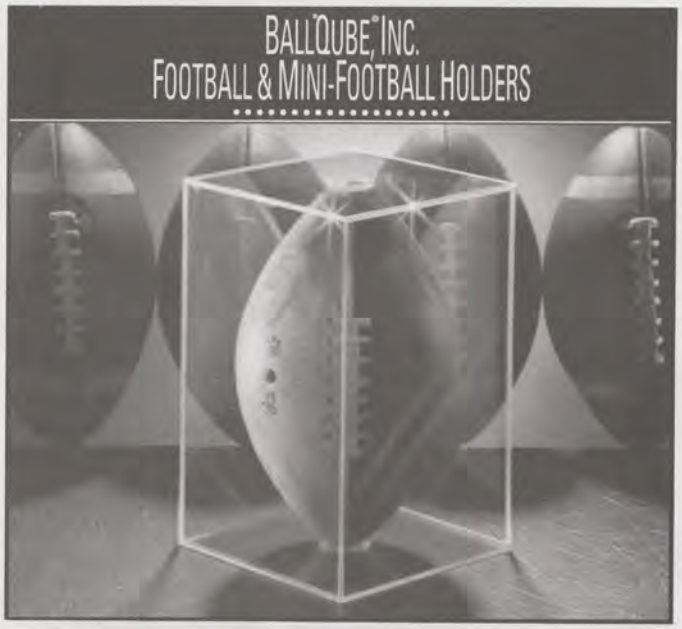
Morgan State University women's basketball Head Coach Darcel Estep has announced an exciting addition to her coaching staff. Baltimore native, and former University of Tennessee standout Dana Johnson is joining the staff as an Assistant Coach. Dana has been playing professionally since leaving Tennessee, and joins the Morgan State staff after playing stints in the American Basketball League (New England Blizzard, 1996-97), in Hungary (1997-98), and in France (1995-96).

Coach Estep says, "Dana will bring a great deal of national and international experience, as well as knowledge and love for the game to our program." She was a tremendous post player at Tennessee, and I'm confident she'll bring the same level of hard work and enthusiasm to Morgan. We are looking forward to Dana's contribution in helping recruit and develop our post players."

During Dana's four years at Tennessee, she helped the Lady Vols to a 122-11 overall record.That's the best four year mark in Lady Vol history. She was named the team's "Most Valuable Player" in her senior season, and her name is found throughout the Lady Vol record book. She's 2nd all-time in free throws made (377), and attempted (584), 6th in scoring (1,621 points), 6th in rebounds (884), and 7th in field goals made (622).

Dana says, "I've played with and against the best, and been coached by the best. I feel I'll bring some positive attributes to the program. My knowledge of the game is vast and diverse, and I look forward to sharing what I've learned with the student-athletes at Morgan."

—Lady Vol Media Relations



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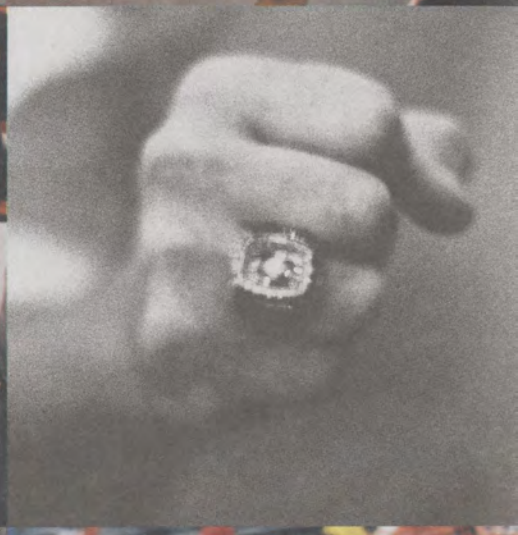

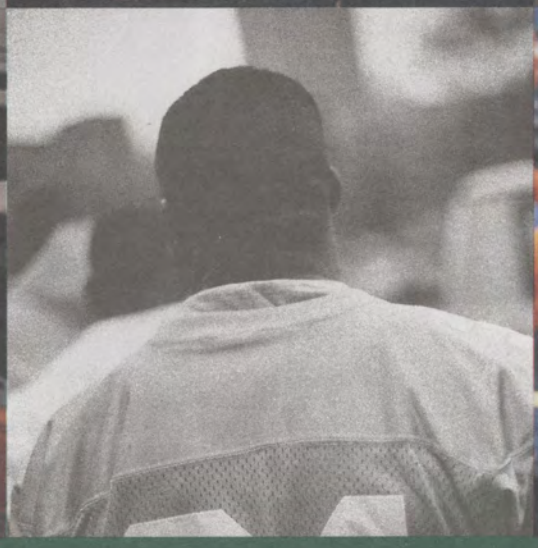

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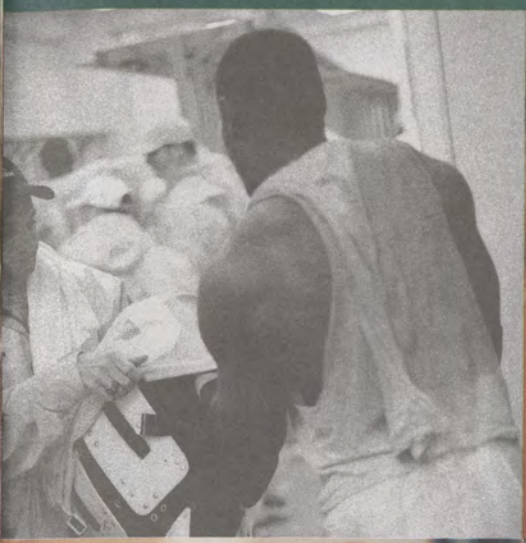

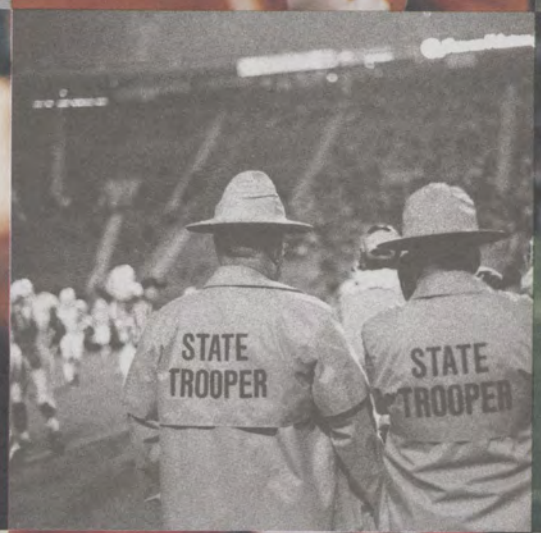

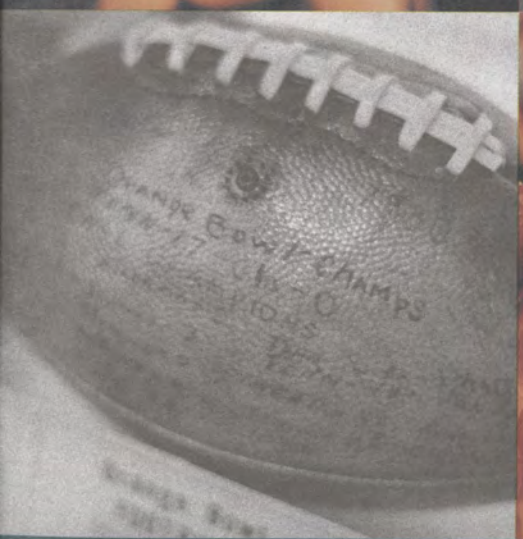

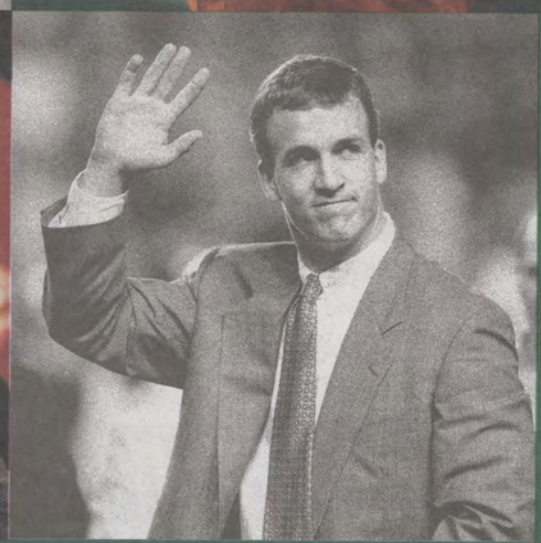

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Faces in Big Orange Country

In his first collegiate competition versus Kentucky, **Gabi Chereches** won the three-meter diving competition and finished second in the one-meter. Chereches hails originally from Bacau, Romania. He claimed a gold medal at the 1993 Junior World Championships and earned a first-place performance at the Junior European Championships in 1995. Earned a pair of All-America honors at the NCAA Championships and his score of 788.05 off the platform helped to secure a fourth-place finish and help the Vols claim fourth-place team finish. A specialist on the platform, Chereches competed in the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games for his native Romania.

Vinny Seiverling, now a sophomore on the Lady Vol tennis team, came into the program in 1997 as one of the youngest athletes to ever compete at Tennessee. After graduating a year early from Hershey (Pa.) High School, she enrolled at UT last fall as a 16-year-old freshman. The youthfulness didn't show on the court, however, as the 5-foot-3 Seiverling finished with the second-best singles record (28-12) on the squad behind senior All-America Manisha Malhotra. Forging a 15-5 mark at number-five singles, Seiverling helped the Orange and White netters to a 20-11 record and the eighth NCAA appearance in school history.

Mark Parsons, a sophomore from St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, returns to the 1998-99 Vol tennis team looking to build on his impressive contributions during his freshman campaign. Parsons finished last year with a squad-best 37-12 record playing the majority of the time at positions 3-5. At one point in the season, the true freshman reeled off an impressive 11 consecutive wins in the heart of the Vol schedule, an accomplishment that earned Parsons the nickname "Mr. Automatic." The mark was solid enough to place Parsons tied for eighth for most singles wins in a season in the Vol record books. Parsons begins this season ranked 100th in the ITA rankings.

Erica Witter is a 5-foot-10 senior sprinter/hurdler on the Lady Vol track and field team. The Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, native is one of five seniors on a UT squad with aspirations for continued improvement in the SEC and NCAA ranks. A two-time All-America on relays at Tennessee, Witter added the 400-meter hurdles to her repertoire last season at the request of Head Coach Myrtle Ferguson. It seemed to be a natural for Witter, as she made great strides during the season and wrapped up her year with a sixth-place finish at the SEC meet in a personal-best time of 60:11. That result was good enough to make her the 12th-fastest 400mH performer in Lady Vol history.

The Last Word...

THE RETURN OF AUBURN TO THE VOL SCHEDULE!

Most of us long-time Vol fans probably believe that the Oct. 3 game against Auburn is a week late, at least given the history of the series from 1956 through 1991. With one exception, the 1968 contest at Birmingham, the series was played on the last Saturday in September and was an early season barometer of the championship possibilities of the two teams.

One such game came in 1969 when the Vols and TIgers squared off on Sept. 27 at Neyland Stadium before a crowd of 57,286.

Buoyed by six interceptions and three fumble recoveries, the Vols beat back an Auburn rally that had closed a 24-3 margin to 24-19 and took a 45-19 decision that was third in four years over their traditional foe.

The first half seemed no contest as the Vols raced 80 yards for the game's first score, with rookie fullback Curt Watson, who would be a three-time All-SEC selection during his career, scoring on an 11-yard run. An interception by Mike Jones led to a 5-yard TD run by Don McLeary. Bobby Scott had a 5-yard pass to tight end Ken DeLong and George Hunt had a 39-yard field goal, a boot matched (and then some) by Auburn's John ("Rat") Riley's 56-yarder.

The Tigers roared back in the third quarter with 16 unanswered points to close the margin, but the scare at 24-19 was short-lived, as Gary Kreis, Tim Priest and Watson each scored in the fourth quarter.

Benny Dalton was a standout for the Vols, picking off two passes, recovering a fumble and dropping Auburn's Pat Sullivan for a 13-yard loss when things were most critical. Tennessee coach Doug Dickey said that Dalton had been moved to the monster back position the Wednesday before the game. "We felt," Dickey said, "we had to do something to that position to get some reaction to the short passing game. Benny played a tremendous game."

"I learned this morning I would start at monster," Walland native Dalton said. "I've been here five years and this is my first start. It had to be my biggest day in football -- my only day. Auburn had some big pass plays and I guess I was put in there to play pass defense."

Crossville native Watson made an impressive Vol debut with 98 yards on 21 carries, showing speed and power from his fullback position. McLeary, a Jackson native moved to tailback just that week, had 18 carries for 81 yards. Dickey said after the game, McLeary had a "sound game" against the Tigers.

Tennessee and Auburn have waged some classic battles on Shields-Watkins Field, Legion Field in Birmingham and Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn. In the 1975 game (above), Larry Seivers (89) had two TD catches, including the game-winner, as the Vols won in Shug Jordan's last Neyland Stadium appearance as Tiger head coach.

Later that year, Watson and McLeary would each rush for over 100 yards in the Vols' 17-3 victory over Georgia on their way to the SEC Crown. Watson had 197, McLeary 100.

It was a fourth quarter for the ages, in which the Vols were seriously challenged and responded in exactly the right way. Riley had a field goal with 9:41 left that cut the margin to the aforementioned 24-19. Dalton had a sack on Auburn QB Pat Sullivan, the 1971 Heisman Trophy winner, that killed the drive that was set up by a Vol fumble

Auburn had the ball with a shot at the lead a series later when a Tiger bobble led to a three-play drive, culminated by a Scott toss to Gary Kreis from 33 yards that stretched the lead to 31-19.

Dalton had an interception on the next drive and nearly scored after a 23-yard return. Watson did the honors from a yard out two plays later and it was 38-19.

Priest had his interception on the first play of the ensuing series and roared in from 38 yards out to complete the scoring. The final was 45-19, a far cry for the dogfight at 24-19 mere moments earlier.

Dickey put the game in perspective, citing the game's first drive as a key.

"I was extremely proud of our first drive in the game," Dickey said. "I give the offensive line a lot of credit for driving it straight down the field against a good Auburn defense. I thought that drive made a big difference in the way the game developed.

"We took advantage of the breaks the defense made through interceptions and got that big lead. I want to give Auburn credit for sticking in there and making that great comeback."

It's been a great series, what with both teams "sticking in there" and making great comebacks. In the years that followed, there were the "rain game" of 1973, Shug Jordan's final appearance on Shields-Watkins Field in 1975, a 21-17 Vol win, Gary Moore's 98-yard opening kickoff return in the 35-17 win in 1979, a 42-0 win in Auburn in 1980, the 38-20 win in 1985 and a 21-14 win in the rain, again, in 1989. They were all great games from the Vol perspective.

Auburn had a gutsy 10-9 win in 1971, an equally gritty 10-6 win in 1972 and came from 26-9 down in 1990 to gain a 26-26 tie among their finest hours.

It was 30-21, Vols, when last the two teams played in the regular season. It was 30-29 in the SEC Championship Game last December.

Welcome back to the schedule, Auburn. We've missed you.

— Tom Mattingly

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